



NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION

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May 20, 2010

The Hon. Sander M. Levin, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Dave Camp, Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp:

As organizations dedicated to the positive development of our nation's youth, we are writing to urge you to support funding for summer and year-round youth employment and training in H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010.

An investment in summer and year-round youth employment will contribute immediately to our economy by offering income and opportunities to youth across the nation, and will also improve young people's longer-term employment and earnings prospects by providing meaningful work experience. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments put over 355,000 youth to work in the summer of 2009, but without immediate action by Congress and a new influx of summer youth employment program funding this year, many, if not most, organizations will be significantly cutting back programs, leaving youth across the country without the opportunity for meaningful employment and work experiences. We also hope that this investment will set the stage for future investment in year round youth workforce development and training programs.

Youth in the United States are facing an unprecedented crisis in employment. In April 2010, youth unemployment (16-19) remained close to its all time high at 25.4 percent. The Center for Labor Market Studies (CLMS) at Northeastern University estimates that the 2008 employment rate for teens is at the lowest rate in more than 60 years – 32.8% for all teens and 22.7% for black teens. The Center also estimates that individuals under the age of 25 represented 60% of the 1.2 million jobs lost last year. Youth and young adults ages 16-24 represent nearly a third of those who are currently unemployed across the country. **Minority youth and young adults are often the first and last to feel the impacts of a recession.**

Our nation is facing a silent crisis – hundreds of thousands of youth lack the opportunities they need to develop the skills they must possess in order to succeed in today's global economy. Investing in job training and employment services for youth will provide immediate economic stimulus and enduring benefits to our youth and to our nation.

Again, we urge your support funding for summer and year-round youth employment in H.R. 4213. Thank you for your tireless efforts in support of our nation's youth.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Youth Employment Coalition
Coalition for Human Needs
National Collaboration for Youth
Campaign for Youth
New Ways to Work
Association for Career and Technical Education
The Corps Network
The Forum for Youth Investment
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Washington, DC
Washington, DC
Washington, DC
Washington, DC
Sebastopol, CA
Alexandria, VA
Washington, DC
Washington, DC
Washington, DC

LOCAL AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc.	Phoenix, AZ
Empowerment Association	San Diego, CA
East County Career Center	El Cajon, CA
Inner City Youth	San Diego, CA
San Diego Workforce Partnership	San Diego, CA
Juma Ventures	San Francisco, CA
Kings View Ready, Set, Go!	Madera, CA
LA Conservation Corps	Los Angeles, CA
Our Piece of the Pie	Hartford, CT
Capitol Workforce Partners	Hartford, CT
Latin American Youth Center	Washington, DC
E.W. Communications	Naples, FL
Workforce One Employment Solutions	Lauderhill, FL
Iowa Comprehensive Human Services	Des Moines, IA
Alternative Schools Network	Chicago, IL
MY TURN	Brockton, MA
Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston	Boston, MA
Boston Private Industry Council	Boston, MA
The Food Project – North Shore	Lynn, MA
Bridge Over Troubled Waters	Boston, MA
The In Real Time Project	Jamaica Plain, MA
City Mission Society of Boston	Boston, MA
Girls Incorporated of Lynn	Lynn, MA
Boston Day and Evening Academy	Roxbury, MA
CCHERS, Inc.	Roxbury, MA
Family Continuity – Supporting & Assisting Independent Living	Beverly, MA
Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board	Worcester, MA
Inquilinos Boricuas En Accion	Boston, MA
Mass Mentoring Partnership	Boston, MA
Boston Society of Vulcans	Boston, MA
Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston, Inc.	Boston, MA
Egleston Square Community Site	Roxbury, MA
North Shore Youth Career Center	Lynn, MA
Chill Zone Youth Program	Gloucester, MA
High Risk Youth Network	Boston, MA
South Shore Workforce Investment Board	Quincy, MA
Boys & Girls Club of Lynn	Lynn, MA
Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board	Rockville, MD
Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth & Families, Inc.	Rockville, MD
Michigan's Children	Lansing, MI
Employment & Training Designs, Inc.	Wayne, MI
Lakeside for Children	Kalamazoo, MI

Orchard View Community Education
Ingham Lansing Community Coalition for Youth
Our Community's Children
Kalamazoo Communities in Schools
School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance

Muskegon, MI
Mason, MI
Grand Rapids, MI
Kalamazoo, MI
Lansing, MI
Taylor, MI

Workforce Development, Inc.
Minnesota Workforce Center
Minnesota Dept. of Employment and Economic Development –
Office of Youth Development
Western Community Action, Inc
Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council
Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
Hennepin-Carver Workforce Service Area

Rochester, MN
Bloomington, MN

St. Paul, MN
Marshall, MN
St. Cloud, MN
Marshall, MN
Minneapolis, MN

New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Youth Council
White Mountains Career Academy
Newport Recreation Department
Newport School District

Newfields, NH
Whitefield, NH
Newport, NH
Newport, NH

Youth Development Institute
United Neighborhood Houses of New York
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
Campaign for Summer Jobs
Children's Aid Society
Sundra Franklin & Associates

New York, NY
New York, NY
New York, NY
New York, NY
New York, NY
Brooklyn, NY

Worksystems, Inc.
Open Meadows Career Services

Portland, OR
Portland, OR

Youth EmployAbility Services

Salt Lake City, UT

Bryant Alternative High School
ACE Training & Scholarship Foundation
Remediation and Training Institute

Alexandria, VA
Springfield, VA
Alexandria, VA

TransCenter for Youth, Inc.

Milwaukee, WI

CC: U.S. House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. Senate Finance Committee